

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of connecting together at least two workpieces using a blind rivet, the method comprising the steps of:
 - positioning the at least two workpieces in abutment;
 - positioning a blind side end face of a blind rivet against a first one of said workpieces and applying a biasing force thereto to maintain said rivet in engagement with said workpiece;
 - rotating said rivet at a speed whilst maintaining said biasing force thereon;
 - utilizing said biasing force to drive said rotating blind rivet through the resultant heat weakened workpieces; and
 - stopping rotation of said inserted rivet and setting said blind rivet to compress the workpieces between a deformed portion of the rivet body and a flange portion.
2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said rivet is rotated at a speed of at least 200 rpm.
3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said biasing force is determined to be less than that required to force the blind rivet through the non-weakened workpiece.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said biasing force is between 2 kN and 10 kN.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein said biasing force is between 4 kN and 8 kN.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said rivet is rotated at a speed of between 300 rpm and 1000 rpm.

7. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 using a blind rivet wherein said blind side end face comprises an abrasive surface.

8. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 using a blind rivet having a blind side end face with a workpiece engaging portion having a contact area less than the cross sectional area of the rivet.

9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8 using a blind rivet with a tapered or frusto-conical blind side end face.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of rotating and setting the blind rivet is carried out using the same tool.

11. (Withdrawn) A blind rivet for use in the method as claimed in claim 1 having a parabolically curved blind side end face disposed co-axially with a longitudinal axis of said rivet.

12. (Withdrawn) A blind rivet for use in the method as claimed in claim 1 having a frusto-conical blind side end face disposed co-axially with a longitudinal axis of said rivet.

13. (Withdrawn) A blind rivet as claimed in claim 12 having an elongate cylindrical projection extending co-axially from said frusto-conical end face.

14. (Withdrawn) A blind rivet as claimed in claim 11 comprising an open ended rivet body and wherein said blind side end face is formed on a mandrel head extending beyond said rivet body.

15. (Withdrawn) A blind rivet as claimed in claim 11 comprising a closed end blind rivet wherein said blind side end face is formed on said closed end of said rivet body.

16. (Withdrawn) A blind rivet as claimed in claim 11 wherein said blind side end face is formed with an abrasive surface.

17. (Withdrawn) A blind rivet as claimed in claim 16 wherein said abrasive surface comprises a coating of abrasive material.

18. (Withdrawn) A blind rivet comprising a workpiece engaging blind side end face, wherein said end face is provided with an abrasive surface.

19. (Cancelled)